

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2014

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Landrith. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended, and notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Landrith, Andover Borough, Chairman
William Koellhoffer, Byram Township
Gary Larson, Frankford Township
Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough
Dennis Haff, Fredon Township
Allan Esenlohr, Green Township
Howard Baker, Hopatcong Borough
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township
Eric Powell, Sparta Township
Don Drake, Stanhope Borough
Christopher Fitzpatrick, At-Large
Eleanor Mensonides, At-Large, Vice Chair
Donald Ploetner, At-Large
Richard Vohden, Freeholder Liaison

EXCUSED MEMBERS: None

STAFF MEMBERS: Eric Snyder, Planning Director
Alice Brees, Program Manager
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Adam Boltz, Health Department
Reenee Casapulla, Recycling Coordinator
Tom Varro, SCMUA

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Marcalus, NATH
John Castner, Reliable Wood Products
Matthew Vestano, Vice President of Sales and Marketing
Keith Bartron, Director of Operations
Jill and Jay Fischer, AG Choice

REORGANIZATION:

Eric Snyder called on the Nominating Committee for a nomination for the position of Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Council. Jason Doyle nominated James Landrith as Chairman. The nomination was seconded by William Koelhoffer. Hearing no other nominations for the position of Chairman, the nominations were closed. SWAC unanimously approved the nomination.

Chairman Landrith asked for a nomination for the position of Vice Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Council. Jason Doyle nominated Eleanor Mensonides as Vice Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Howard Baker. Hearing no other nominations for the position of Vice Chair, the nominations were closed. SWAC unanimously approved the nomination.

The Agenda was amended to D, New Business.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Jason Doyle to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2013. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides. All were in favor, with abstentions from William Koellhoffer, Gary Larson, Dennis Haff, Stephanie Pizzulo, Eric Powell and Don Drake. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Landrith said he was forgoing his Chairman's Remarks due to the long Agenda this evening.

The Agenda was further amended to B, New Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PRESENTATION: THE HOTROT COMPOSTER:

Peter Marcalus said he works with NATH Sustainable Solutions, which is a headquartered in Tarrytown, NY. They have many products that are involved and focused on food waste recycling and solutions for reducing cost and handling food waste. He is here this evening to speak primarily on the HotRot Composter. This is a very large scale, turn-key system that is focused on recycling both pre and post-consumer food waste.

Food waste represents a very large portion of the solid waste stream, about 21% on a national basis, according to DEP and the EPA. Only about 3% of food waste is recycled. The majority of it goes to landfill. Landfilled food waste creates greenhouse

gasses, so there is an environmental cost and dollar cost when food waste goes to a landfill. Mr. Marcalus said 34% of methane emissions are attributed to food waste. Methane gas is 72 times more heat trapping than carbon dioxide. Nationally, landfills are decreasing and the opportunities to get rid of such a large percentage of our solid waste are diminishing. Instead, this material can be used as a resource. Recycling food waste will reduce tipping fee costs, emissions associated with the transportation of food waste and it allows the finished material, compost, to go back into our environment in a beneficial way. Recycling food waste also eradicates vermin and pests if it is utilized correctly.

NATH Sustainable Solutions has two in-vessel composting systems. These are proven technologies. One is the Rocket Composter, the other is the HotRot System. They also have digesters, dehydrators, waste pulpers and solutions for dealing with fryer oil waste. The system for fryer oil waste is called the Veggiwatt System and is a cogeneration power system that takes fryer waste and converts it into electricity and hot water for buildings.

In terms of the in-vessel systems, the Rocket Composter has been around for about 14 years. There are four different models handling as little as 65 lbs. per day or as much as 730 lbs. per day. It is ideal for schools, colleges, corporate campuses and institutions. Currently there are about 500 Rocket Composters operating worldwide. It is relatively new to New Jersey, about seven units. Nationally there are about 50 units operating. The food waste is composted on-site; it is not transported anywhere. Mr. Marcalus said grants are available for municipalities.

The HotRot Composter has two model sizes. One size takes 2.5 tons of food waste per day. The larger size takes 12 tons per day. This is ideal for large universities and municipalities as well as County and regional processors. Both systems, the HotRot and the Rocket Composter, make finished compost in a very short period of time with very little windrow curing afterwards. It is an ideal finished product for commercial and residential landscaping, large earth work contractors, commercial agricultural and farming use. The HotRot System is the best cutting edge system that is available in the world today. It composts in only 12 days. It is an in-vessel, aerobic system that is fully enclosed without outside moving parts. There are over 30 facilities in ten countries that are operating the HotRot System. The system can be used either indoors or outdoors.

The HotRot Composter takes all food waste: meat, fish, eggs, poultry, vegetables, breads, cakes, puddings and desserts, plate scrapings, pastas and rice, all comingled. The composter also takes large bones and compostable utensils and plateware.

In his Power Point Presentation, Mr. Marcalus showed photographs of the systems and said they are shipped pre-fabricated and then assembled on the property. There is an entry point where the food waste gets mixed and ground. It then enters the system using a screw conveyor system. The system comes up to temperature (130°-150°) for multiple days. The temperature kills pathogens in the mix. The result is a quality compost product. The smaller of the two available sizes is about 42' long and the larger model is about 72' long and 16' wide. The system does not use added water, enzymes, additives or starters. The system is computer monitored and needs very little

maintenance. The HotRot system also monitors the internal moisture of the mix. Moisture that is in the system is captured and goes into a bio-filter system. Mr. Marcalus said this is an odor-free system. Some moisture does escape as a vapor. There is an occasional wash down of the tipping floor. The wastewater would either be collected or have wood waste added to it to absorb it. Then the wood waste would be collected with a bucket loader and put back into the system.

Mr. Marcalus said the carbon source for the HotRot Composter is wood waste, tree stumps and limbs that have been chipped. It can also take processed wood waste. The wood does not have to be dried but it cannot be rain or snow-soaked. The HotRot uses about 30-40% wood waste and the balance is food waste.

When asked about the cost, Mr. Marcalus said the smaller unit costs about \$400,000, the larger unit costs about \$1.2 million. There are about 32 systems in use worldwide. The majority of them are in New Zealand, where they are manufactured.

Tom Varro asked how post consumer food waste would be collected. Mr. Marcalus said municipal trucks or private contractors would collect the waste curbside, perhaps once a week or every other week in five gallon buckets. Mr. Varro asked about the occasion where food waste is discarded in plastic grocery bags. Mr. Marcalus there would need to be regulations and enforcement on what can be discarded. He said that Princeton, NJ has curbside pick-up of post consumer food waste. They encourage residents to use compostable bags.

Renee Casapulla asked where the nearest Rocket Composter was located. Mr. Marcalus said the nearest location is Bergen Community College. By the end of January, one will be located at Montclair State University. The nearest location of a HotRot system is Nova Scotia. When asked how blending is done at schools, Mr. Marcalus said they manually open the hatch and add in the food waste and wood chips. He said that landscapers and tree service companies hired by the schools provide the wood chips. There was some discussion on the supply and storage of wood chips.

Eleanor Mensonides asked about the disposal of the wastewater. Mr. Marcalus said the system would generate about one gallon of wastewater a week and it would be disposed of into the school's kitchen drain. For the larger system, the wastewater is heated up to a point where the grey water is safe for land application.

Mr. Marcalus welcomed people to contact him for more information.

B. PRESENTATION: RELIABLE WOOD PRODUCTS, LLC, FOOD WASTE COMPOST DRUM:

John Castner said he works for Reliable Wood Products and that they are a leading recycling company based in New Jersey. Reliable Wood Products is a division of Harvest Power, which is an international organic waste recycling company and energy recovery company. Reliable Wood Products operates about a dozen facilities in New Jersey and a couple in Pennsylvania. There is also a facility in Brooklyn, NY. They are the largest commercial organic waste recycling company in New Jersey.

Mr. Castner said he has been with the company for about one year and that he retired from the NJDEP after 36 years in the Solid Waste and Recycling Business. Part of that time, he was director of the Solid Waste and Recycling Regulatory Program. He spent the last eight years in the Solid Waste and Recycling Enforcement Program. With Reliable Wood Products, he is the Director of Renewable Energy Regulation. His job is to bring them to food waste recycling in New Jersey. When asked, Mr. Castner said the Headquarters is in Jersey City and that they have facilities in Belvidere, Cranberry, Upper Deerfield, West Orange, Springfield, Tinton Falls and a few other facilities in other locations.

During his Power Point Presentation, Mr. Castner said the project for Sussex County is an aerobic, in-vessel food waste composting system. It is a drum where source separated food waste is blended with a Class B recycled wood product for a bulking material and processed through an enclosed drum. The drum is manufactured by a company called DariTech, a leading recycling company serving the dairy and agricultural industry. His system is known as the Enviro Drum. They are proposing to use this drum at the Grinnell Solid Waste Facility and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Complex on Houses Corner Road in Sparta, NJ. They are working with NJDEP in order to obtain a Research, Demonstration and Development (RD&D) approval to test the process.

The scope of his project is relatively small by comparison to most solid waste facilities. Their daily thru-put would be about 30 tons per day. That is not all food waste. At maximum they would be in the range of about 12.5 tons of food waste processed along with the bulking material that will be necessary to provide the carbon content and to absorb some of the moisture in the food waste. The rotating drum is enclosed and has controlled atmospheric and temperature conditions, controlled by computer. The residence time will vary in order to determine the optimum processing rate. They expect it to be in the range of 1.5 – 3 days in the drum, but this may vary once they start working with the material and search out the optimum conditions. Tipping and processing would be indoors within a portion of the Grinnell Solid Waste Materials Recovery Building. The building is permitted by NJDEP and is included in the Sussex County District Plan. Once the material goes through the drum and is initially composted in the drum, it would be removed and taken outdoors to be composted in windrows and turned in order to finish the curing process. They are expecting to use up to about three acres of an area of the Grinnell Class B Wood Recycling Facility.

The tipping will occur on a concrete floor within the building. Bulking material would be added initially with a wheel loader. The feedstock is then put into a mixing vat where it is homogenized and then delivered through a screw logger and a conveyor system into the compost drum. The drum then rotates and is controlled so that the air will be flowing through it from the discharge and up to the intake end. The air goes the opposite direction of the compost material in the flow through the drum. The final product comes out of the drum and goes through a trommel screen to remove debris. It is then delivered to a stock pile indoors and then moved and taken outdoors to windrows.

Mr. Castner pointed out on a photograph the areas of the Class B Recycling portion of the Grinnell property and Houses Corner Road which is in the lower portion of the

property. He also pointed out the MRF building, where the processing would occur, and the windrows area. He also displayed a map which was rotated about 90° from the previous photograph. There was a slide showing the facility layout, specifically the Materials Recovery Building. Mr. Castner pointed out the areas he talked about when he described the scope of the project. There was also a slide showing the actual auger mixer and the flow-through drum. Mr. Castner said the equipment is on site but is not connected. It was temporarily wired to make sure all of the motors all ran in the right direction. It has been disconnected while they wait for the permits and approvals from NJDEP and the County.

Mr. Castner said this is a very small facility. They expect less than three trucks per day of source separated food waste. The bulking material will be delivered in not more than one truck per day. If the bulking material has to be delivered from one of their remote facilities, it would probably come in a 100 yard walk-in floor trailer. One truck would be more than adequate for a day's volume of material. They do not expect any increase beyond the Grinnell permitted traffic approval. Their traffic would be within the total traffic that they have available to them, which is regulated by NJDEP.

The existing Materials Recovery Facility has a very sophisticated and expensive dust control system. They do not expect there to be any distinguishable noise beyond any of the operations of Grinnell. Processing will occur inside the building. The mixers, conveyors and drums are all electrically operated. They would have a wheel loader that is no different than that which Grinnell is currently using for their materials recovery operations. The transport of material outside of the building to the compost windrow field area in the Class B operations would occur either with a roll-off container on a truck or with wheel loaders.

Because of the small scale of this project, and because they will be immediately blending material, they do not expect that there will be any odors. The worst odor potential is the trucks that would be coming into the site before they've tipped the material out onto the floor. The temperature and oxygen will be controlled in the drum system to reduce pathogens and complete the initial composting process. The composting field will be in an area that has existing stormwater controls. All the stormwater at the Grinnell facility is retained on-site and they are not expecting that they will alter stormwater drainage patterns in any way by construction of the windrows. The windrows will be less than 10,000 cubic yards. Their proposal calls for a maximum of 20,000 cubic yards of windrows but that does not take into account any decomposition and reduction in volume during the composting process. They expect significantly less than 20,000 cubic yards on the site at any time. Mr. Castner said to their knowledge there are no wetlands, historic sites, threatened or endangered species on the site.

Mr. Castner said Matthew Vestano, Vice President of Sales and Marketing and Keith Bartron, Director of Operations are here this evening. Eleanor Mensonides asked where the feedstock will come from. Mr. Castner said the feedstock will come from supermarkets and distribution centers. If possible this material will come from the County, if not, they have other sources available. Ms. Mensonides said Grinnell does not have food waste as part of their material to be brought in. Mr. Castner said they are aware of that. She asked if they will use bulking waste from Grinnell's site. Mr.

Castner said Reliable Wood Products has a Management Agreement where they are taking over the wood recycling activities of the Grinnell facility. They will be segregating that from the masonry recycling activities and the solid waste materials operations. It will continue to be managed by Grinnell.

Christopher Fitzpatrick asked what the total number of employees is. Mr. Castner said for all of Reliable Wood Products, they have 142 employees. In Sparta, there are four full-time employees under Reliable Wood Products. This does not include Grinnell's operations. They anticipate the number of employees for Reliable Wood Products operating in Sparta to grow to eight to ten.

Donald Ploetner asked if they have gone before Sparta Township yet. Mr. Castner said not yet and that he is still finding out about the process. He is not familiar with the County's procedures for inclusion of this project in the Plan. Mr. Ploetner asked if the photograph of the equipment that was shown is the equipment that is currently at Grinnell's site. Mr. Castner said it was. Mr. Ploetner asked if they received permits to install the equipment. Mr. Castner said he was not sure but that the equipment is temporarily staged there.

Tom Varro said from the layout, it appears that the project will take up about half the MRF floor. Mr. Castner said it will take up approximately half of the materials recovery operation. The Grinnell facility is operating at substantially reduced capacity. Mr. Varro said their permit is about to be considered for renewal and this would affect the capacity of that facility to process 400 tons of waste. Mr. Castner repeated that this is a temporary Research, Demonstration and Development (RD&D) project. If it is successful, they understand that they would have to seek full modification to Grinnell's permit for long term operation. They would like this to be a success and demonstrate its efficiency to NJDEP and Sussex County. They understand that they would need to get full permits themselves and modify the Grinnell permits as necessary. If it does not work, they will sell it back to the dairy industry. If it is cost-effective, successful and does not need extremely sophisticated engineering controls, then they would like to continue to use it on a more permanent basis and obtain all the appropriate permits. Mr. Varro asked if there is an Odor Air Permit requirement. Mr. Castner said they are working with NJDEP and at this point DEP is asking for a five-year Air Permit which they would have to apply for. The Solid Waste Approval is an RD&D. DEP does not have the equivalent of a testing approval for an air permit.

Mr. Varro asked if they will be washing down the floor. Mr. Castner said if needed, the building has floor drains that go to a central location where there are sediment controls. Moisture will probably be absorbed with the bulking material and go into the composting drum. They will broom sweep and include the dust and dirt in the compost feedstock and compost it through the system. Mr. Varro asked if the bulking agent will get the moisture off the floor. Mr. Castner said the food waste will be rich in nitrogen and they need to add a carbon source to it in order for the composting process to work properly. They will need at least an equal volume of the bulking material to the food waste, possibly more. Mr. Varro asked if they have a site stormwater NJPDES Permit. Mr. Castner said he believes they do and added that he has been trying to get that information out of DEP.

Dennis Haff asked what the temperature will be in the composting drum. Mr. Castner said he believes it runs at 55° Centigrade, which is approximately 131° or 135° Fahrenheit. Mr. Haff asked if that is vented. Mr. Castner said the air is pulled through the drum and that the drum will be fully inside of the Materials Recovery Building. If necessary, they have the capability of adding a bio-filter. There is plumbing and an exhaust fan that is attached to the drum system. They can construct the bio-filter and vent the air through the bio-filter if it is necessary. The DariTech system is in operation in about 100 locations through the US and Canada. In discussion with the manufacturer; it was determined that none of the other locations have had air controls added on to the exhaust air from the drum.

Ms. Mensonides asked exactly what types of food waste do they intend to bring in. Mr. Castner said it would be a mixture of bakery waste, vegetative waste, greens and possibly meat. However, the volume of meat is relatively small in comparison to the other products just by virtue of its cost. Companies do not throw away a lot of meat. When asked about floor wash downs, Mr. Castner said if floor wash downs are necessary, they can absorb it with the bulking material.

Howard Baker confirmed that there will be two feedstocks, the food waste and the recycled wood. Mr. Castner said that was correct. Mr. Baker asked how they plan to control the availability of both feedstocks to make sure they don't run short on one or the other, since it appears it will be a continuous process. Mr. Castner said they produce hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of recycled wood material on an annual basis. If needed, they can bring in more from one of their other sites. They can produce it at the Sparta facility. In processing to produce wood mulch materials, they've added a screening process and out of the screening process, they get a fine grain wood material that is very similar in size and appearance to sawdust.

Ms. Mensonides asked Mr. Castner if he has ever been on a tipping floor when waste is dumped. Mr. Castner said many times over 36 years. Ms. Mensonides said she believes even with a bulking agent, there will still be a mess on the floor at the end of the day. There should be some way to clean up the floor. Mr. Castner said a lot of the clean-up occurs with front-end loaders. The material is pushed and the floor is scraped. If there is a need for a wash down, they can manage it through either the permitted floor drain system or by absorbing it with material. When asked what will be done with the final product, Mr. Castner said they will sell it. They have a proven history of selling compost products throughout New Jersey. The material will be sold by bulk or bag. They have a bagging operation also occurring through a related company under the Harvest Power Umbrella that is operating at the Grinnell facility.

Eric Powell said he agreed with Mr. Ploetner in that Reliable Wood Products will need to talk to Sparta Township's Planning Department since it is a change of use from what Grinnell is currently doing. He also asked if there will be a leaching out of any of the preservatives within some of the wood products. Mr. Powell said the site is over the top of a fairly significant aquifer. Mr. Castner said they do not accept chemically treated or painted wood in the wood recycling operations. Mr. Powell asked who will screen the wood at the MRF. Mr. Castner said the Materials Recovery Facility is a separate facility. If they can produce a clean, untreated wood, then they can process that through their recycling operations; but the overwhelming majority of their wood

recycling is tree parts, naturally occurring wood, untreated and unpainted. Mr. Powell said if they are using material that was brought to the MRF as part of the bulking load, then there should be some on-site quality control to make sure there is no pressure treated lumber. Mr. Castner said that is no different than what happens on a daily basis there now as part of their existing permitted wood recycling operations. They are not permitted to recycle painted or treated wood.

Mr. Baker asked if he was correct in that Reliable Wood Products are in the recycling business, they have a number of facilities but they are not currently using this equipment at any of them. Mr. Castner said that was correct. They just acquired this equipment at the end of last summer. It is not in use in New Jersey on a commercial scale. There is a very similar pilot operation at Kean University in Union, NJ. It is a smaller drum, about a third the size of what they are proposing.

Jason Doyle said Mr. Caster mentioned they will test this process to see how feasible it is before going for final approval. He asked how long they plan to test the process. Mr. Castner said there is no set testing time. As they vary processes, the composting period in the drum may have to change based on the mixture that they employ. They expect the residence time in the drum to be one and a half to three days but it could end up being longer. It could take several months to produce a sufficient volume to see how it behaves in windrows. It's basically going to be a continuum of operations. If it succeeds, their desire is to seek out sufficient approval from DEP to continue to operate it simultaneous with the permanent permitting process.

Ms. Mensonides asked when they plan to submit an application to SWAC. Mr. Castner said if he receives a somewhat favorable review from SWAC this evening, he will go back to his bosses and will try to have an application in before the next SWAC meeting. Ms. Mensonides said she has concerns with their wanting to test the facility and that materials will be going to the facility that are not presently allowed to be going there. SWAC also needs to see an endorsement from Sparta Township. Mr. Castner said that is why he is here this evening, to find out what process is available to them. Eric Snyder said they should speak to Sparta Township first because SWAC cannot consider an application without approval from the municipality. Mr. Castner said NJDEP suggested that an Administrative Action would be an acceptable way for the County to amend its District Plan. If there is an existing categorical inclusion of compost facilities in the Sussex Plan, is there a way they could, on an abbreviated schedule, modify that to allow for this type of facility? The least desirable, from their perspective, is to seek a full Plan Amendment in accordance with the DEP regulatory process.

Jim Landrith asked if their process includes any chemicals or biological agents. Mr. Castner said, "No." They do not add any enzymes. Mostly they work to control the moisture in the food waste by adding bulking materials so they do not have to add additional water to it.

When asked if the drum spins 24 hours a day, Mr. Castner said it rotates intermittently. It is controlled by a computer based on temperature and air flow. When it rotates, it only rotates at approximately one revolution per minute and then it

remains static for a period of time. It is very similar to a backyard composting operation.

Renee Casapulla asked about DariTech. Mr. Castner said DariTech services the dairy industry and other aspects of the agricultural industry. It is used for manure, silage, and a variety of farm wastes. There are a couple of smaller scale experiments that are beginning. It is currently being used for food waste for the National Archives either in North Carolina or around the Washington, DC area. He said they are looking at pre-consumer food waste, at least initially. They are not expecting a great deal of trash or residue at the end, but a trommel screen is included with the equipment. Ms. Casapulla asked if the food waste will be brought to the facility or will they be doing the collection. Mr. Castner said initially, they will be working with a permitted transporter to bring material in. If it proves to be profitable and workable on their scale, they do have a transportation component in their recycling business and they can transport source-separated material with their existing DEP licenses. He added that given the scale of this operation, it will not pay for them to go out and obtain trucks. They will work with a licensed transporter and schedule the deliveries so that they have the bulking material and an equipment operator there at the time. Mr. Bartron said they anticipate receiving 12 ½ tons of food waste per day. One yard probably equals a ton, so they are talking about 12 ½ yards of food waste coming into the facility per day. This is equivalent to 4 bucket loads with a volume reduction of 40-50% after it is fully composted. Once it is mixed with the mulch, the final product will probably be the equivalent of 7-10 yards of finished product.

Ms. Casapulla asked what will happen if they receive larger amounts of pre-consumer food waste than expected. Mr. Bartron said these issues will be worked out in the research project. The drum is designed to speed up the initial composting process and the curing process should be reduced significantly for the outside piles. This also reduces the odor potential. He added that the bulking agent is a screened mulch. The floor may have to be rinsed down on a daily basis. The quantity of material coming in with a research project isn't going to be that tremendous that they will not be able to handle it. Mr. Castner said it will not pay for them to bring in more food waste material than they can handle. They will not be able to stockpile it so, it is best if they schedule the deliveries on an "as-needed" basis.

When asked about the length of the research, Mr. Castner said it could be couple of months during the initial research while they fine tune the operation to determine what the optimal mixture rates are, what the time for processing in the drum is and other operational variables that they could adjust. If it is successful after the first couple of months, they will seek a permanent license and approval. When asked if they would look to increase the tonnage at that point, Mr. Castner said to increase the tonnage they would have to add another machine. The proposal that they've outlined is an absolute maximum that this machine can handle. He said the machine is a modular design and that they can order another unit if the Grinnell operation is phased out and they take over a larger portion of the building. There is a limit to how much of the existing building they would be able to occupy and still allow Grinnell to continue their operation. At this point, Grinnell has not indicated that it is their intention to go out of business. If over time, it appears to be more profitable for them

to take over a larger portion of the structure and add another processing line, then they can conceivably double it; but that is still a relatively small volume of material.

Jay Fischer said food waste is about two yards to a ton. He said the typical composting ratio is 30/1: 30 parts carbon, one part nitrogen. The proposal says it is a 50/50 mix. Mr. Castner said they want to experiment. They want to see if the mechanized system can increase the amount of food waste. They will seek out the optimum mixture of carbon content and bulking material. Mr. Bartron said food waste is not 100% nitrogen. There is carbon in food waste. When asked how many food waste operations Reliable Wood Products operates, Mr. Castner said, under Harvest Power, he believes there are three. Two of them are in Canada and one is in Disney World, Florida. A member asked if staff members receive formal training. Mr. Castner said when he was with DEP, he was one of the trainers with the Compost Certification courses. He added that Matt Vestano has also attended the Compost Operator's Certification.

Mr. Castner was asked what is going to be done with the existing wood on the Grinnell site where the windrows will go. Mr. Castner said they will turn it into final product, sell it. Some of it may be bagged by Garden Pro. Mr. Bartron said they have two bagging lines on site. When asked if the wood will be gone before the windrows will be laid out. Mr. Bartron said they are working on it right now. Mr. Castner said they are not ready to start up operations yet, so they have some lead time. Mr. Bartron said right now is bagging season for the mulch.

There was a question about the distance from the property line. Mr. Castner said the 1,000' guideline for DEP is not to the property line, it is to the nearest sensitive receptor. He believes the proposed windrows are 800'-1,000' from neighbors. When asked about the need to keep food waste under cover. Mr. Castner said the outdoor windrows will not be under cover. If it is source separated food waste, it is not a solid waste composting facility; it is a Class C Recycling Center. The RD&D Guidelines allow them to determine whether or not they can reduce any of the buffers or setback distances. They have been in discussion with DEP Bureau Chief Fontana and his Staff regarding this project.

Ms. Mensonides asked if SWAC members can go on a tour of the site. Mr. Castner said, "Certainly." They are not yet operational, but SWAC members can see the equipment and get a better understanding of what it looks like and how large it is. He said they are more than happy to entertain guests. Ms. Mensonides asked Alice to get together with Mr. Castner and come up with a few dates for a field visit.

Dennis Haff asked how far it was from the composter to the windrows and how the material will be transported. Mr. Castner said it depends on how quickly they will be able to produce it. Most likely it will be loaded into a roll-off container or would be handled in tri-axle dump trucks. At most, the distance is one quarter of a mile. It is all on interior roads on the site.

Alan Esenlohr asked why this site will be an experiment if they already have three facilities in operation. Mr. Castner said two of the facilities are anerobic digesters, which is an entirely different type of operation. They are designed to recover methane gas for energy recovery. There is a different time frame associated with the process,

different technology. The compost operation in Florida is an aerobic drum similar to the proposed one. Mr. Bartron said those are 25-30 acre facilities and 400-500 tons per day food waste acceptance. Mr. Esenlohr asked if they were looking for SWAC's approval. Mr. Landrith said this is a pre-application, a "for information only" presentation.

Gary Larson said it appears that Reliable Wood Products has other issues to resolve before they can submit an application to SWAC. This presentation has now gone on for 40 minutes and we still have a long agenda to get through. Mr. Castner thanked SWAC for their time.

C. GRINNELL NJDEP SOLID WASTE FACILITIES PERMIT RENEWAL:

Tom Varro said the County and the MUA received copies of the Renewal Application packet for the Grinnell Solid Waste Facilities Permit. The MUA talked to DEP and received an extension of time to February 5 to submit comments. The packet has a SWAC Approval Resolution. There is a condition of approval that talks about inspection reports which must be submitted to the Solid Waste Coordinator and municipal governing body. Mr. Varro said he does not believe he currently receives those reports. He felt this should be highlighted so that DEP ensures the MUA receives copies of past reports and it becomes a condition of permit. There have been quite a few inspections there. Some have been satisfactory and others have resulted in violation notices.

Another condition said that wash down water should be properly contained. Grinnell has an agreement with SCMUA to bring their wash down water to the MUA. This agreement goes back to 2008 or 2009 when Grinnell first opened. To date the MUA has not received anything. This means either wash down water is not being generated at all or it is being generated and is going to a non-regulated location. He feels this issue also needs to be addressed.

In the Public Hearing, there were quite a number of questions to DEP with regard to the fact that the facility is over one of Sparta's largest drinking water aquifers. SCMUA recommended that groundwater monitors wells be put in and the response from DEP was that Grinnell would need to apply for and receive a site NJPDES DGW Stormwater Permit. As a condition of that permit, they were supposed to install monitor wells and do quarterly sampling. Mr. Varro does not believe this was ever done.

Mr. Varro said if SWAC is in agreement with these concerns, he would work with Eric Snyder to compose a letter which would be sent to DEP on SWAC's behalf. He also suggested mentioning the RD&D project because this may affect the working capacity of Grinnell's facility. Mr. Snyder said in addition, Grinnell wants to expand the range of material that they can take in. Mr. Varro said there was a letter request to DEP for changing the Class B facility to accept water and wastewater residuals and to treat it.

MOTION:

A Motion was made by Christopher Fitzpatrick to authorize staff to send a letter to DEP regarding issues raised by Mr. Varro. The issue of the recent tonnage discrepancies in Grinnell's reports will also be included in this letter. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Freeholder Board.

Eric Powell requested that Sparta be involved with the County and the MUA in developing the comments to DEP. The motion was amended to include Mr. Powell's request. The motion was seconded by Gary Larson and carried unanimously.

D. APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES FOR 2014:

Gary Larson, Frankford Township, asked that SWAC discuss a change to the meeting start time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He said that Frankford Township made this change and it seems that everyone is happier with the earlier start. Chairman Landrith asked SWAC how they felt about this change. Most did not have a problem with beginning the meetings earlier. Alan Esenlohr said he preferred the 7:30 p.m. start time. It was agreed that the change be put to a vote.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Gary Larson for SWAC to start the new calendar year with a change to the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides. A voice vote was taken. All but one member was in favor of the change. Motion carried.

The Schedule of Meetings for 2014 was provided to SWAC. Howard Baker noted that the meeting for November is scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month rather than the second. The Recording Secretary explained that in November, the second Tuesday is a County holiday. Eleanor Mensonides asked if the third Tuesday of November would impact League of Municipalities. The Recording Secretary said that it probably would impact League of Municipalities, but the first Tuesday of November is Election Day and the fourth Tuesday would put the meeting only two weeks before the December meeting. Eric Snyder said if the Agenda permits, SWAC can always cancel the November meeting.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Donald Ploetner to approve the 2014 SWAC Meeting Dates. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Mensonides and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

REPORTS:

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Tom Varro said for fiscal year 2013, overall for ID-10 and ID-13, there were 101,964 tons. SCMUA projected 103,000 tons which is within a percent of actual tonnage received, and probably less when the other waste classes are put in. This represents an increase in tonnage overall for ID-10 and ID-13 wastes combined of 1.3% from 2012, which was a 4.9% decrease from 2011. The year 2011 was close to a 12% increase from 2010. The large increase from 2010 to 2011 was due to flow control starting in 2010.

For ID-10, in 2013 there was a total of 70,885 tons. This represents a 1.4% decrease from 2012, which was 5.7% lower than 2011. There is a trend in decreasing ID-10 tonnage. Mr. Varro said they are doing better in ID-13. C&D waste is up, 11,408 tons, an increase of 12.3% over 2012. The straight ID-13 waste was 8,654 tons, an increase of 17.2%. The convenience center and bag waste had some moderate decreases. The loss in ID-10 waste has been offset with increases in ID-13. Because the tip fee for ID-13 is higher, overall revenue was good. The MUA retired some bonds at the end of 2013, and there was a small amount of money that was required to come from the closure fund to balance finances.

Howard Baker asked if these figures are part of the Monthly Solid Waste Revenue and Appropriations Report. Mr. Varro said that report is done on a monthly basis at the request of DEP. In the years when the MUA received State aid, DEP used this report as a tool to track the MUA's progress throughout the year. Since the MUA no longer has the big bond payment, plus the fact that the MUA will not need State aid, there is no longer a need to do those reports.

Mr. Baker asked for a clarification on the figures associated with the bond payment. He also commented on the heading, "YTD Tonnage Actual/Projected." He said he sees this as Actual "divided by" Projected. He said this heading is misleading. Mr. Varro said this was set up by DEP for their purposes.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

Renee Casapulla said the MUA had the flag retirement ceremony on January 7. They brought 800 lbs. of old flags to the Abbey Glen Pet Memorial crematory. The ceremony was well attended by American Legion, Veteran's Associations, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops. Results will be provided to DEP for the combustion process.

There will be a Municipal Recycling Coordinators Workshop for filing the 2013 Recycling Tonnage Reports. This Workshop is scheduled for February 26 at the MUA. This year they will focus on e-waste tonnage.

The 2014 SCMUA Recycling information is available on their website and has been sent out to the municipalities. The Schedule has all of their events listed. Ms. Casapulla will keep SWAC informed as the individual programs become available.

C. STATE LIAISON:

The State Liaison did not attend this evening's meeting, nor did he provide a report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

A. ERIC SNYDER:

Eric Snyder did not have anything new to report.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Adam Boltz said for 2013 they tagged 211 containers and there were 178 waste flow closures. He expects a couple of penalties to be generated. There were 33 garbage truck routes inspected, all but one closed. He issued 31 Notices of Violation and 16 Penalty Assessments were issued. There are four pending Penalty Assessments. Mr. Boltz said he did 20 NJDEP Referred Investigations. There were 19 CEHA Solid Waste Complaints/Referrals. All of their required facility inspections have been completed. There were eight recycling investigations with five NOV's issued.

Mr. Boltz said they are talking about placing an inspector at the landfill. An MUA staff person called the Health Department in July and sent them photographs of a hauler dumping a load with cardboard in it. Through those photographs and the Health Department's investigation, they issued an NOV and then a penalty assessment. He said the Health Department received the check today.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. INITIAL CLASS B & C RECYCLING CENTER GENERAL APPROVAL-RER SUPPLY, LLC, NJDEP, 11/6/13:
- B. SOLID WASTE FACILITY MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2013, GRINNELL RECYCLING, 11/13/13:
- C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, 11/13/13; 12/13/13:
- D. SOLID WASTE TRANSPORTER MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT, NJDEP, 11/18/13:
- E. SOLID WASTE TRANSPORTER MONTHLY DISPOSAL REPORT, EQ NORTHWEST, 1/2/14:

Alice Brees summarized the Correspondence listed above.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jay Fischer said as a lifelong resident of the County and New Jersey's only licensed food waste composter, he hopes that as the County begins to explore food waste composting options, they would be interested in doing a public/private partnership. He said these in-vessel systems are not as easy as they are made to sound. He also said that nobody ever brings a sample of the compost that comes out of the vessel. Mr. Fischer brought a sample of his finished product for SWAC to look at.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.